



CAROLINE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Caroline County is ideally situated between surrounding metropolitan areas and the beaches of the Delmarva Peninsula. It is open country-side with scattered towns and villages, unspoiled and uncomplicated in its topography. The salt waters of the Chesapeake Bay mingle with the Choptank River, which winds a full 60 miles inland into the northern reaches of the county, affording some of the best bass fishing anywhere in the United States.

Of Caroline's total land area of 204,898 acres, 54 percent is used for agricultural purposes. Industries are largely agricultural and employ many of the county's inhabitants. Points of interest include 91 historical land-marks including Linchester Mill, which supplied flour for Washington's troops during the Revolutionary war.

Ranking first in the state in 1999 for vegetable acreage, Caroline has earned the name "The Green Garden County of Maryland". The county ranked first in the state in the production of barley, fourth in wheat, third in soybeans, and fifth in corn. Caroline introduced the state's first comprehensive agricultural directory for its farmers entitled "The Agri-directory of Caroline County".

CAROLINE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	20,700	96.1	1,989,000
	1998		20,600	113.3	2,333,900
	1999		18,900	102.0	1,927,800
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		1,000	20.4	20,400
	1999		2,600	12.3	32,000
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	51,800	28.5	1,475,800
	1998		44,400	27.0	1,199,000
	1999		55,300	25.9	1,434,400
Wheat	1997	Bu.	22,000	62.4	1,373,000
	1998		22,500	40.8	919,000
	1999		21,500	53.6	1,152,200
Hay	1997	Tons.	2,100	3.2	6,700
	1998		2,900	3.8	11,000
	1999		2,800	3.8	10,500
Barley	1997	Bu.	8,600	83.0	752,000
	1998		10,200	51.5	525,000
	1999		9,100	86.1	783,400

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 <sup>1</sup>	
Corn	7	Oats	<sup>3</sup>	Cattle	15
Wheat	4	Barley	14	Hogs	4
Hay	11	Soybeans	3	Sheep	17
				Milk Production	9 <sup>5</sup>

CAROLINE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		636	588	525
Average Size (acres)		209	216	212
Land in Farms (acres)		132,804	126,981	111,316

Livestock (Number on Farms) <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	4,966	4,794	3,168
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	8,883	7,395	6,098
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	172	391	244

Average Number of Milk Cows		1997	1998	1999
		1,600	1,500	1,500

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		1997	1998	1999
		30,600	29,000	29,000

Value of Sales <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
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	----- Thousand Dollars -----			
All Products		72,343	85,053	95,120
Crops		16,245	26,898	28,719
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products		56,098	58,155	66,401

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.  
<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.  
<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.  
<sup>4</sup> Revised.  
<sup>5</sup> 1999.  
\* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	40.3	34.1	6.11	3.57
February	40.2	36.5	2.86	3.30
March	44.3	45.7	5.38	3.80
April	55.6	54.9	2.73	3.42
May	65.1	64.9	0.56	4.23
June	74.4	73.5	2.33	3.61
July	80.9	77.5	5.07	3.96
August	77.5	76.2	4.21	4.23
September	70.3	69.8	12.86	3.64
October	58.0	59.1	3.73	3.15
November	54.3	49.4	2.37	3.42
December	42.4	39.1	2.52	3.72
Annual	58.6	56.7	50.73	44.05

Number frost free days for 1999	226
Normal frost free days 1951-1980	212 <i>(1961-1990 Not available)</i>
Highest temperature 07-05-99	101
Lowest temperature 01-06-99	12

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service  
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